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DEC 19 2005

Serial No.: 10/798,935

Art Unit: 2651

Examiner: Rodriguez

Docket AUS9 2003 0926 US1

Commissioner for Patents  
Amendment dated December 19, 2005  
Response to Office Action dated November 4, 2005  
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REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending and examined. The Examiner indicated objections to claims 1 and 18. The Examiner rejected claims 8-9 and 15-16 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over George (US Pub. No. 2003/0163756 A1) in view of Jones (US Patent No. 5,796,540). The Examiner rejected claims 10-11 and 17-18 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over George and Jones in view of Woods (US Patent No. 5,881,311). The Examiner allowed claims 1-7 and indicated claims 12-14 and 19-21 as reciting allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this response, Applicant has amended claims 9, 10, 14, 16, 19 and 21 and canceled claims 8, 15, 17, and 18. Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16, and 19-21 remain pending.

Claim Objections

The Office Action indicated an objection to informalities in claims 1 and 18 as filed. In response to the objection to claim 1, Applicant has amended "each of the set of disks" to "each disk in the set of disks." Applicant believes that amended language addresses the Examiner's objection and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection to claim 1. Applicant notes that this amendment is made solely to correct a grammatical issue in the originally submitted claim and is explicitly not made for any purpose related to patentability.

The Examiner's objection to claim 18 has been addressed by Applicant's cancellation of claims 17 and 18.

Claim rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 8-9 and 15-16 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over George in view of Jones. In response to the rejection of independent claim 8, Applicant has canceled claim 8, incorporated the limitations of claim 8 into claim 14, and amended claims 9 and 10 to depend on claim 14 instead of claim 8. Consistent with the Examiner's determination that claim 14 as originally submitted recited allowable subject matter, Applicant believes that claim 14 as amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 8 recites allowable subject matter.

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Applicant notes that claim 14 has not been amended for any purpose related to patentability, but instead has been amended merely to recite the claim in independent form.

In response to the rejection of independent claim 15, Applicant has canceled claims 15, 17, and 18, incorporated the limitations of claims 15, 17, and 18 into claim 19, and amended claims 16 and 21 to depend on claim 19 instead of claim 15. Consistent with the Examiner's determination that claim 19 as originally submitted recited allowable subject matter, Applicant believes that claim 19 as amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 15, 17, and 18 recites allowable subject matter. Applicant notes that claim 19 has not been amended for any purpose related to patentability, but instead has been amended merely to recite the claim in independent form.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 10-11 and 17-18 is moot in view of the amendments to claim 10 to depend upon an allowable claim and the cancellation of claims 17 and 18.

#### CONCLUSION

In the present response, Applicant has addressed the claim objections and responded to the Examiner's claim rejections under 35 USC § 103(a). Accordingly, Applicant believes that this response constitutes a complete response to each of the issues raised in the office action. In light of the amendments made herein and the accompanying remarks, Applicant believes that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant would request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections, allow the pending claims, and advance the application to

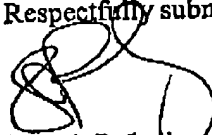
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issue. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney would welcome and encourage a telephone conference at 512.428.9872.

Respectfully submitted,



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*Attachments*

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